

Maine Dental Association

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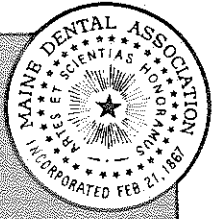
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A Constituent of the
American Dental
Association



Dental Managed Care issues

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Maine Dental Association asks that the following ideas be included in the Managed Care bid:

1. We propose creation of a dental "carve-out" inside the Managed Care Organization. We envision this as between the MCO and a dental management entity, not OMS.
2. We propose a Fee for Service payment system, not capitated payments.
3. We propose fees based on the 75th percentile of the then current ADA fee survey for New England and that the fee schedule be updated with the latest ADA fee survey every two years. This does not mean a 75% increase in fees, instead it means payment at the level that 75% of the dentists of New England are paid. For example, MaineCare pays \$68 for a single anterior composite filling while 75 percent of the New England dentists charge up to \$158 for the same service. Currently, at \$68, the MaineCare rate is below what even the bottom 10th percentile of New England dentists charge for that service. The 10th percentile is \$110.
4. Streamlined Payments – we propose payments as follows: 90% in 30 days, 100% within 90 days with interest to the provider if not paid on time.
5. We propose strong provider incentives, and sanctions, regularly reviewed by DHHS, with the quick availability of the DHHS manager if problems develop.
6. We propose an "Dental Oversight Working Group" made up of dentists, a representative of the "prime contractor" and the "dental subcontractor," if any, similar to the MaineCare Dental Advisory Committee. The group must have the authority to settle problems.
7. We propose that services provided to MaineCare members be sufficient to prevent oral disease, restore decayed teeth, and alleviate pain, infection, and imminent tooth loss.
8. We propose compliance with Rule 850 of the Maine Bureau of Insurance concerning the time and distance between patient and dentist participants, which is generally 60 miles or 90 minutes from home to practice.
9. We propose that any willing dentist who meets the provider standards set for dentists in the network be allowed to join the plan as a dental provider.
10. We propose that patients not have to wait more than 21 business days before receiving an appointment for routine treatment or more than 3 days for an urgent care appointment.
11. We propose that, to insure the implementation of accepted standards of dental practice, the Standard of Care under the contract will be decided by the dentist, taking into account Maine statutes, the Rules, and Policies of the Maine Board of Dental Examiners and the recommendations of the American Dental Association.